

# Welcome to the Indiana Historical Society



First Courthouse in Marion County, erected in 1823-1824. It served as the State Capitol until 1835.

**The Indiana Historical Society** was organized on December 11, 1830, at a meeting of citizens convened in the Marion County Courthouse in Indianapolis. It was the fourteenth anniversary of the admission of Indiana to statehood. The Society's objectives were to be "the collection of all materials calculated to shed light on the natural, civil, and political history of Indiana, the promotion of useful knowledge, and the friendly intercourse of such citizens of the state as are disposed to promote the aforesaid objectives." Chartered by act of the General Assembly on January 10, 1831, the Indiana Historical Society is a private corporation with a public responsibility, and the founders' objectives continue to guide the Society today.

**The Indiana Historical Society Library** is a repository of rare books, manuscripts, maps, pictures, and ephemera relating to the history of Indiana and the area of the Old Northwest. The library houses more than two thousand manuscript collections, including personal correspondence, diaries, account books, and organizational records relating to Indiana history. Its book collection features early accounts of European and American explorers and travelers, immigrants' guides, territorial and early statehood laws, the Civil War, and Indiana local history. Complementing the library's book collection is an excellent collection of maps showing the Midwest from the period of exploration to Indiana statehood. The library's photographic collection numbers more than 100,000 items, encompassing examples of early photographic processes, pictures recording all aspects of Indiana history, and representative works of Indiana photographers.

New collections have recently been established in the areas of Indiana black, ethnic, and architectural history, as well as in twentieth-century social history. The library pursues an active exhibits program, with three major exhibits each year. The Society encourages use of its library by anyone interested in the history of Indiana and the Old Northwest, and the library staff offers assistance to both visitors and correspondents. The library is open from 8:30 to 5:00 Monday through Friday and, September to May, from 8:30 to 4:00 Saturday.

**Through its publications program** the Society promotes useful knowledge. Since 1886 it has issued a wide variety of monographs and edited documents in more than a hundred numbers of the *Publications* series. Handsomely printed and bound special publications have also been issued beginning in 1937 with Eli Lilly's *Prehistoric Antiquities*. A few other examples are R. C. Buley's Pulitzer Prize winning work, *The Old Northwest* (1950); archaeologist Glenn A. Black's study of the prehistoric community in southwest Indiana, *Angel Site* (1967); Wilbur Peat's *Indiana Houses of the Nineteenth Century* (1962); the two-volume *Documentary History of the Indiana Decade of the Harmony Society, 1814-1824* (1975-1978); and recent biographies of Indianapolis social welfare pioneer Oscar C. McCulloch and of early automobile manufacturer Elwood Haines. The four published volumes in the projected six-volume *History of Indiana* have won high acclaim. The nine-volume *Diary of Calvin Fletcher 1817-1866* is a uniquely valuable historical source for Indianapolis and Indiana, recorded by one who was a lawyer, banker, farmer, and also a concerned citizen of the state's capital. The Society has published its history in celebration of its sesquicentennial and has recently branched into the area of historic music with a two-disc recording, *Indiana Ragtime: A Documentary Album*, which includes an illustrated booklet detailing the story of ragtime in the state. Lectures on various themes are also issued, and a newsletter appears frequently.

**Sections and Committees** reflect special historical interests. The Society's ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMMITTEE has been active for



Tecumseh meets William Henry Harrison at the Council at Vincennes in 1810.



over forty years, supporting surveys, excavations, and field schools, and presenting archaeological sessions at history conferences and workshops. Publications have included the numbers issued in the *Prehistory Research Series* and the two-volume report on Angel Site.

The very active FAMILY HISTORY SECTION holds workshops and conferences as well as publishing the quarterly *Hoosier Genealogist* and eight issues of *Genealogy* each year. Other publications have included: *Abstracts of the Records of the Society of Friends in Indiana*; Indiana census records; *Indiana Source Book* I, II, and III, composed of extracts from the *Hoosier Genealogist*, 1961-1979; and *Genealogical Sources*, which contains reprints from the "Indiana Genealogy" column in the *Indiana Magazine of History*, 1936-1961. Also available is the recently published *Index* to the three-volume *Indiana Source Book*.

The MILITARY HISTORY SECTION presents interesting and lively programs featuring prominent military figures and historians addressing a variety of topics. It also publishes the *Military History Journal* three times a year. Recently the section has initiated an oral history project.

The MEDICAL HISTORY COMMITTEE sponsors programs at history conferences, publishes the *Medical History Quarterly*, and advises the library in its acquisitions in the field of medical history. Through the committee the Society is supporting the appointment of an historian of medicine at Indiana University.

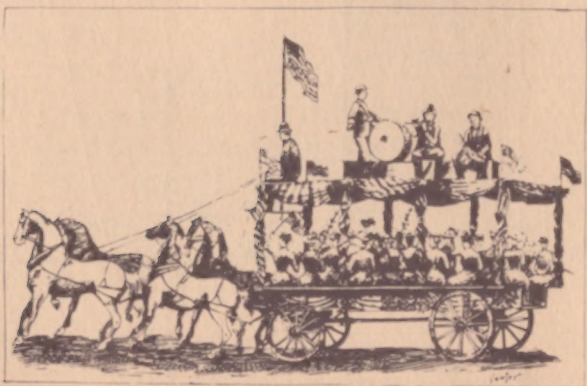


Pioneer schoolhouse in Delaware County.

**Special projects** are being conducted by the Society in several areas. A staff is researching and writing a volume similar to the *WPA Guide to the Hoosier State*, published in 1941. The new *Guide* will provide Hoosiers with a short history of their state and a series of twenty-one circular tours that begin and end in a principal city. These tours are carefully researched and planned for one-day excursions. The Indiana Newspaper Project staff recently published a one-volume bibliography of Indiana newspapers and is conducting a project to microfilm newspapers from all over the state. The Indiana History Project for the Blind uses tape recordings as a means of bringing Indiana history to the visually impaired and presently circulates two thousand cassette books a month.

**Benefits and opportunities for service** offered by membership in the Society are numerous.

Members receive the *Newsletter*, the monthly *Indiana History Bulletin*, the quarterly *Indiana Magazine of History*—the well-regarded state journal, which is published at Indiana University—numbers of the *Publications* series, and many of the special publications as they are issued. Members may also purchase publications at a 20 percent discount. At their request and at no additional charge members may join the sections of the Society and be placed on their mailing lists for their publications.



James K. Polk and George M. Dallas campaign wagon in Scott County, 1844.

**Friendly intercourse to promote its purposes,** the third objective of the Society, is carried out through the Indiana History Conference (held in November in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Society), and spring and fall conferences held annually at locations out in the state. These programs are open to all who are interested in Indiana's historical heritage.

Public outreach through a series of regional conferences and workshops is the responsibility of the newly created **Field Services Division**. The division also administers a regional consultant program which offers professional advice to local historical organizations, and directs the educational programs at Ft. Knox II Historic Park, a site owned and operated by the Society located near the city of Vincennes.

The Society is a sponsor of the Indiana Junior Historical Society, an organization which promotes the study of Indiana's past through numerous history clubs located in schools throughout the state. Programs for the over seven thousand members of the Junior Society include workshops, conventions, summer programs, and a monthly newsletter.

In addition to the tangible rewards, membership in the Society offers the interested citizen an opportunity to support the preservation and publication of Indiana state and regional history. By participating in the meeting and committee activities, or simply by keeping abreast of the new research and writing on Indiana history that comes in the mail, members join a community of citizens who share an interest in understanding Indiana's multi-faceted past.

The \$15.00 annual membership fee is a small charge for these opportunities.

Join us today.

Indiana Historical Society  
315 West Ohio Street  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46202  
(317) 232-1882





# Indiana Historical Society Membership Application

Date \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City

\_\_\_\_\_  
State

\_\_\_\_\_  
Zip Code

\_\_\_\_\_  
Occupation/Profession

Membership Categories (*Check one*)

☐ Annual \$15.00 (January through December)

Payment must be received before June 1 for current year's membership or membership will begin the following January. (Persons joining after June 1 may join for 18 months, July through December of the following year, for \$22.50).

☐ Sustaining \$30.00

☐ Contributing \$50.00

☐ Life \$500

Please mail this form and check to: Indiana Historical Society, 315 West Ohio Street, Indianapolis, Indiana 46202

(See Reverse Side)

I wish to become a member of the following sections or committees of the Indiana Historical Society and receive their publications. Please limit choice to two.

☐ Family History Section      ☐ Military History Section

☐ Archaeology Committee      ☐ Medical History Committee

Signature\_\_\_\_\_

☐ I am interested in the history of blacks in Indiana and would like to receive the quarterly publication, *Black History News and Notes*.